

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE "PALAEMON PINNOPHYLAX" OTTO, 1821, AS THE TYPE SPECIES OF THE GENUS "PONTONIA" LATREILLE.
1829 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)

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Latreille, 1829 (Cuvier's *Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 96), in the original description of the genus *Pontonia* mentioned only one species : "*Alpheus thyrenus* [sic], Risso, Crust., ii, 2 ; *Astacus thyrenus* [sic] petag., v, 5 ; Desmar., *ibid.*, pag. 229." Like Latreille, Risso, 1816 (*Hist. nat. Crust. Nice* : 94, pl. 2, fig. 2) identified his *Alpheus tyrrenus* with *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna, 1792 (*Institut. entom.* : 418, pl. 5, fig. 3). The latter species thus obviously is the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille.

Up till 1947 the name *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna was generally considered to belong to the species described and figured by Risso, 1816, under the name *Alpheus tyrrenus* [sic]. This species, which is a commensal shrimp belonging to the tribe Caridea, accordingly obtained the specific name *Pontonia tyrrhena* (Petagna). The generic name *Pontonia* always has been given to this genus of commensal caridean shrimps ; the genus *Pontonia* has even become the typical genus of the subfamily PONTONIINAE (family PALAEMONIDAE). There has never been any doubt as to the systematic position of the genus *Pontonia*, and the generic name *Pontonia* has been used by practically all carcinologists to indicate that genus.

In 1947 the present author (Holthuis, 1947, *Zool. Meded.* 27 : 319, 320) showed that the excellent figure which accompanies the short original description of *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna leaves not the least doubt that this species is entirely different from that described and figured by Risso as *Alpheus tyrrenus* [sic]. *Astacus tyrrhenus* proves to be identical with the species best known under the name *Callianassa laticauda* Otto, 1821, which does not even belong to the Caridea, but forms part of the tribe Thalassinidea. The latter species thus has to bear the specific name *Callianassa tyrrhena* (Petagna). The first valid specific name for the species described and figured by Risso, 1816 as *Alpheus tyrrenus* proves to be *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821 (*Conspectus Anim. marit. non edit.* : 12).

Latreille, 1829, placed his new genus *Pontonia* in his "cinquième section, celle des Salicocques (*Carides*)" (:91), with the other caridean genera like *Hymenocera*, *Gnathophyllum*, *Alpheus*, and *Hippolyte*, while he recognised as a distinct genus the genus *Callianassa*, which was placed by him in his "quatrième section, celle des Homards (*Astacini*, Latr.)" (:82). It thus is obvious that Latreille, 1829, erected his new genus for *Alpheus tyrrenus* Risso, 1816, a species which is identical with *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, but which was incorrectly identified both by Risso, 1816, and Latreille, 1829, with *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna, 1792. In this original sense the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille always has been used since 1829.

The fact that Latreille misidentified *Alpheus Tyrrenus* Risso with *Astacus tyrrenus* Petagna has, however, no bearing on the determination of the type species of the genus *Pontonia*. According to the revised *Règles*, namely, "the original author of a generic name [is] to be assumed to have identified correctly the nominal species referred by him to the genus so named" (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 (4/6): 158). Under the *Règles* the species *Astacus tyrrenus* Petagna, 1792, is thus undoubtedly the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829. Consequently the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, becomes a synonym of the generic name *Callianassa* Leach, 1814, and is not available for the genus of commensal caridean shrimps for which it always has been employed, and for which it certainly was intended by its original author. The strict application of the *Règles* in this way would cause an undesirable confusion since not only would it make it necessary to substitute a new name for the well-known generic name *Pontonia*, as accepted by most authors, but also it would involve changing the name of the subfamily PONTONINAE. In order to prevent this unnecessary confusion I recommend that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:—

(1) use its plenary powers:—

(a) to set aside all designations or selections of type species for the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, made prior to the proposed decision; and having done so

(b) to designate *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, to be the type species of the foregoing genus;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829 (type species, as proposed in (1) above to be designated under the plenary powers: *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821) (gender of generic name: feminine);

(3) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *pinnophylax* Otto, 1821 (as published in the binominal combination *Palaemon pinnophylax*) (trivial name of type species of *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829).